

Matter and Motion cannot Think: ²

O R,

A Confutation of *ATHEISM* from
the Faculties of the Soul.

A
S E R M O N

Preached at

S^t Mary-le-Bow,

April 4. 1 6 9 2.

Being the *Second* of the Lecture Founded by
the Honourable *ROBERT BOYLE*, Esquire.

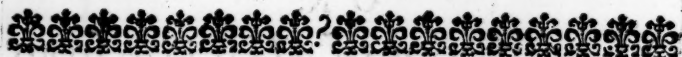
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The Second Edition.

L O N D O N,

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*Geo. Royse, R. R^{mo} in Christo Patri
ac D^{no} D^{no} Johanni Archiep. Can-
tuar. à Sacris Domest.*

*April 7.
1692.*

1626:90



70, 2304

ACTS XVII. 27.

That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him: though he be not far from every one of us; for in him we Live, and Move, and have our Being.

THese words are a part of that Discourse which S. Paul had at *Athens*. He had not been long in that inquisitive and pragmatical City, but we find him *encountred by the Epicureans and Stoics*, two sorts of people that were very ill qualified for the Christian Faith: the one by reason of their Carnal Affections, either believing no God at all, or that he was like unto themselves, dissolved in *Laziness* and *Ease*; the other through their Spiritual Pride presuming to declare, that † a Wise Man of their Sect was equal, and in some cases superiour to the Majesty of God himself. These men corrupted through *Philosophy* and *vain deceit*, took our Apostle and carried him unto *Areopagus*, v. 19. a place in the City, whither was the greatest resort of Travellers and Strangers, of the gravest Citizens and Magistrates, of their Orators and Philosophers;

Act. 17. 18.

* Ἀργὺν καὶ ἀμαλῆς.

† Arriani Epictet. l. 1. c. 12. Ὡς καὶ τὰ γὰρ τὸ λόγον, ἐν ἡμετέροις καὶ θεῶν, ἐν ἡμετέροις. Seneca Ep. 53. Est aliquid quo sapiens antecedit Deum: ille natura beneficio, non suo sapienti est.

v. 20.

phers; to give an account of himself and the new Doctrine that he spoke of: For, say they, *thou bringest strange things to our ears; we would know therefore what these things mean.* The Apostle, who was to speak to such a promiscuous Assembly, has with most admirable Prudence and Art so accommodated his Discourse, that every branch and member of it is directly opposed to a known Error and Prejudice of some Party of his Hearers. I will beg leave to be the more prolix in explaining the whole; because it will be a ground and introduction not only to this present, but some other subsequent Discourses.

Lucianus in
Philopat. Philo-
strat. de vi-
ta Apol. l. 6.
c. 2. Pausan.
in Eliacis.

From the Inscription of an Altar to the Unknown God, which is mentioned by Heathen Authors, as *Lucian* and *Philostratus* and Others, he takes occasion (v. 24.) to declare unto them that *God, that made the World and all things therein.* This first Doctrine, though admitted by many of his Auditors, is expressly against the *Epicureans*, who ascribed the Origin and Frame of the World not to the Power of God, but the fortuitous concurrence of Atoms; and to the *Peripatetics*, that supposed all things to have been eternally, as they now are, and never to have been made at all, either by the Deity or without him. Which
God,

God, says he, seeing that he is Lord of Heaven and v. 25.

Earth, dwelleth not in Temples made with hands, neither is worshipp'd with men's hands as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all Life and Breath and all things. This is opposed to the Civil and Vulgar Religion of Athens, which worshipped God

with Temples and Sacrifices, as if he really needed Habitation and Sustenance. And that the com-

mon Heathens had such a mean apprehension about the indigency of their Gods appears plainly,

to name no more, from Aristophanes's *Plutus*, and

the Dialogues of *Lucian*. But the Philosophers

were not touch'd in this point; all Parties and

Sects, even the *Epicureans* forsooth did main-

tain (τὸ αὐτάρκεις) the self-sufficiency of the Godhead:

and seldom or never sacrificed at all, unless in con-

descension to the Custom of their Country. There's

a very remarkable passage in *Tertullian's* Apology,

Quis enim Philosophum sacrificare compellit, &c? It

appears from thence, that the Philosophers, no less

than the Christians, neglected the Pagan Wor-

ship and Sacrifices; though what was connived

at in the one, was made highly penal and capi-

tal in the other. And hath made of one Blood all

nations of men, for to dwell on all the face of the Earth,

and hath determin'd the times before appointed, and

the bound of their habitation. This Doctrine about

the

* *Lucret. 2.*
Ipsa suis pollens
opibus, nihil
indiga nostri.

Tertull. Apo-
log. cap. 46.

v. 26.

the beginning of Human Race, though agreeable enough to the *Platonists* and *Stoics*, doth apparently thwart the *Epicureans* and *Aristotelians*: one of whom did produce their Primitive Men from meer Accident or Mechanism; the other denied that Man had any beginning at all, but had eternally continued thus by Succession and Propagation. Neither were the Commonalty of *Athens* unconcern'd in this point. For although, as we learn from *Isocrates*, *Demosthenes* and others of their Countrymen, they professed themselves to be * *αὐτόχθονες*, *Aborigines*, not transplanted by Colonies or otherwise from any Foreign Nation, but born out of their own Soil in *Attica*, and had the same Earth for their Parent, their Nurse, and their Country; and perhaps some * few might believe that all the rest of Mankind were derived from *them*, and so might apply and interpret the words of the Apostle to this foolish Tradition: yet that conceit was entertain'd but by a few; for they generally allowed that the *Egyptians* and *Sicilians* and some others were *Aborigines* also, as well as themselves. Then follow the words of the Text, *That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him; though he be not far from every one of us. For in him we live, and move, and have our being. And this*

* *Isocrates* in *Paneg.* *Demosth.* in *Epistaph.* *Cic.* *Or. pro Flacco.* *Euripides*, &c.

* *Diog. Laert.* in *Præf.*

Thucyd. lib. 6
Herodot. &c.

v. 27, 28.

this he confirms by the Authority of a Writer that lived above 300 years before, *as certain also of your own Poets have said, For we are also his Offspring.* This indeed was no Argument to the *Epicurean* Auditors, who particularly had a contempt of and spite against the Poets, because on all occasions they introduced the Ministry of the Gods, and taught the separate Existence of human Souls: And their Master *Epicurus* had bragged, that in all his Writings he had not cited one single Authority out of any Book whatsoever. But it was of great weight and moment to the Common People, who held the Poets in mighty esteem and veneration, and used them as their Masters of Morality and Religion: and the other Sects of Philosophers likewise did frequently adorn and confirm their Discourses by Citations out of Poets. *For as much then as we are the off-spring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto Gold or Silver or Stone graven by art or man's device.* This is directly levell'd against the gross Idolatry of the Vulgar, (for the Philosophers are not concern'd in it) that believed the very Statues of Gold and Silver and other Materials, to be God, and terminated their Prayers in those Images; as I might shew from many passages of Scripture, from the Apologies of
of.

Plu tarch. de
Aud. Poet. &
contra color.

Laert. in vita
Epicuri.

v. 29.

v. 30, 31.

Acts 14. 16.

v. 33.

of the Primitive Christians, and the Heathen Writers themselves. *And the times of this ignorance God winked at,* (the meaning of which is, as upon a like occasion the same Apostle hath expressed it, that *in times past he suffer'd all Nations to walk in their own ways*) *but now commandeth every one to repent ; Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness, by that man whom he hath ordained ; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.* Hitherto the Apostle had never contradicted the opinions of all his Hearers at once : so that although at every part of his Discourse some of them might be uneasy and nettled ; yet a moderate silence and attention was still observed, because it was agreeable to the notions of the rest. But *when they heard of the Resurrection of the Dead,* the interruption and clamour became universal ; so that here the Apostle broke off his Discourse, and departed from among them. What could be the reason of this general dissent from the notion of the Resurrection, seeing that almost all of them did believe the Immortality of the Soul ? *S. Chrysostom* hath a conceit, that the *Athenians* took *ἀνδράποδος* (the original word for *Resurrection*) to be preached to them as a Goddess, and in this fancy he is followed

lowed by some of the Moderns. The ground of the conjecture is the 18th verse of this Chapter, where some said *What will this Babler say?* other some, *He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange Gods* (ξένων δαιμονίων, *strange Deities*, which comprehends both Sexes) *because he preached unto them* Ἰησοῦ καὶ τοῦ ἀναστάντος, *Jesus and the Resurrection*. Now, say they, it could not be said *Deities* in the plural number, unless it be supposed that ἀνάστασις is a *Goddeſs*, as well as *Jesus a God*. But we know, such a permutation of Number is frequent in all Languages. We have another example of it in the very Text, *As certain also of your own Poets have said, For we are also his Offspring*. And yet the Apostle meant only one, *Aratus the Cilician*, his Countryman, in whose *Astronomical Poem* this Passage is now extant. So that although he preached to the *Athenians* *Jesus alone*, yet by a common mode of speech he might be called a *setter forth of strange Gods*. 'Tis my opinion, that the general distaste and clamour proceeded from a mistake about the nature of the Christian Resurrection. The word Resurrection (ἀναστῆναι & ἀνάστασις) was well enough known amongst the *Athenians*, as appears at this time from * *Homer*, *Eschylus* and *Sophocles* (so

v. 28.

Arati Phen.

v. 5.

Πάντης ὃ
Διδεκεχρήμα-
τα πάντες, τῷ
πῶ καὶ γινώ-
σκουσιν.

* Hom. Il. ο.

551. Οὐδέ μιν

ἀνστήσει, &c.

Æsch. Eumen.

655. Ἀνδρὸς

Soph. Electr. 136.

ὃ ἐπὶ δὲ αὐτῷ ἀναστήσει κύνες. * Ἀπὸ δὲ θανάτου, ὅπως ἔστι ἀνάστασις. Soph. Electr. 136.
Ἄλλ' ἔτι πῶς ἔξ αἰδῶ πύχου λήμνας πατέρι ἀνάστασις, ὅτι γνοίον, ὃ ληπτέ.

B

that

that it could hardly possibly be imagin'd to be a Goddess) but it always denoted a returning from the State of the Dead to this present World, to eat and drink and converse upon the Earth, and so after another period of Life to die again as before. And *Festus* a Roman seems to have had the same apprehensions about it. For when he declares the case of *S. Paul* his Prisoner to King *Agrippa*, he tells him, That the Accusation was only about certain questions of the Jewish Superstition; and of one *Jesus* which was dead, whom *Paul* affirmed to be alive. So that when the *Athenians* heard him mention the Resurrection of the Dead, which according to their acceptance of the word was a contradiction to Common Sense, and the Experience of all Places and Ages; they had no patience to give any longer attention. His words seemed to them as idle tales, as the first news of our Saviour's Resurrection did to the Apostles themselves. All interrupted and mocked him, except a few, that seem to have understood him aright, which said they would hear him again of this matter. Just as when our Saviour said in an Allegorical and Mystical sense, *Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his Blood, ye have no life in you*; the Hearers understood him

Acts 25. 19.

Luk. 24. 11.

John 6. 53.

him literally and grossly. *The Jews therefore strove among themselves; saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? this is a hard saying, who can bear it? And from that time many of his Disciples went back, and walked no more with him.* v. 60. v. 66.

I have now gone through this Excellent Discourse of the Apostle, in which many most important Truths are clearly and succinctly deliver'd; such as the Existence, the Spirituality, and All-sufficiency of God, the Creation of the World, the Origination of Mankind from one common stock according to the History of *Moses*, the Divine Providence in overruling all Nations and People, the new Doctrin of Repentance by the Preaching of the Gospel, the Resurrection of the Dead, and the appointed Day of an Universal Judgment. To all which particulars by God's permission and assistance I shall say something in due time. But at present I have confined my self to that near and intrinsecal and convincing Argument of the Being of God, which we have from Human Nature it self; and which appears to be principally here recommended by *S. Paul* in the words of the Text, *That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him: though he be not far from every one of us; for in him (that is by his*
B 2 power)

power) *we live, and move, and have our being.*

The Proposition, which I shall speak to, from this Text is this : That the very Life and Vital Motion and the Formal Essence and Nature of Man is wholly owing to the Power of God : and that the consideration of our Selves, of our own Souls and Bodies, doth directly and neerly conduct us to the acknowledgment of his Existence. And

1. I shall prove, That there is an immaterial Substance in us, which we call Soul and Spirit, essentially distinct from our Bodies : and that this Spirit doth necessarily evince the Existence of a Supreme and Spiritual Being. And

2. That the Organical Structure of Human Bodies, whereby they are fitted to live and move and be vitally informed by the Soul, is unquestionably the workmanship of a most wise and powerfull and beneficent Maker. But I will reserve this latter part for the next opportunity ; and my present undertaking shall be this, To evince the Being of God from the consideration of Human Souls.

(1.) And first, I say, there is an immaterial Substance in us, which we call Soul, essentially distinct from our Bodies. I shall lay this down as self-evident, That there is something in our Composition, that thinks and apprehends, and reflects and deliberates, determines and doubts,

con-

consents and denies; that wills, and demurrs, and resolves, and chooses, and rejects; that receives various sensations and impressions from external objects, and produces voluntary motions of several parts of our Bodies. This every man is conscious of; neither can any one be so sceptical as to doubt of or deny it: that very doubting or denying being each of them mention'd and supposed before, and including several of the rest in their Idea's and Notions. And in the next place 'tis as self-evident, that these Faculties and Operations of Thinking, and Willing, and Perceiving, must proceed from something or other as their efficient Cause: meer Nothing being never able to produce any thing at all. So that if these powers of Cogitation, and Volition, and Sensation, are neither inherent in Matter as such, nor acquirable to Matter by any motion and modification of it; it necessarily follows, that they proceed from some cogitative Substance, some incorporeal Inhabitant within us, which we call Spirit and Soul.

(1.) But first, these Faculties of Sensation and Perception are not inherent in Matter as such. For if it were so; what monstrous absurdities would follow? Every Stock and Stone would be a percipient and rational Creature. We should have as much feeling upon the clipping

ping off a Hair, as the cutting of a Nerve. Or rather, as Men, that is a complex Being compounded of many vital parts, we should have no feeling nor perception at all. For every single Atom of our Bodies would be a distinct Animal, endued with self-consciousness and personal sensation of its own. And a great number of such living and thinking Particles could not possibly by their mutual contract and pressing and striking compose one greater individual Animal, with one Mind and Understanding, and a vital Consension of the whole Body: any more than a swarm of Bees, or a crowd of Men and Women can be conceived to make up one particular Living Creature compounded and constituted of the aggregate of them all.

(2.) it remains therefore, secondly, that seeing Matter in general, as Matter, has not any Sensation or Thought; if it have them at all, they must be the result of some Modification of it: it must acquire them by some Organical Disposition; by such and such determinate Motions, by the action and re-action of one Particle upon another. And this is the Opinion of every Atheist and counterfeit Deist of these times, that believes there is no Substance but Matter; and excludes all incorporeal Nature out of the number of Beings.

Now

Now to give a clearer and fuller confutation of this Atheistical Assertion, I will proceed in this method.

1. First I will give a true Notion and Idea of Matter; whereby it will appear that it has no inherent Faculty of Sense and Perception.

2. I will prove, that no particular Species of Matter, as the Brain and Animal Spirit, hath any power of Sense and Perception.

3. I will shew, that Motion in general super-added to Matter cannot produce any Sense and Perception.

4. I will demonstrate, that no Determinate Motion, as of the Animal Spirit through Muscles and Nerves, can beget Sense and Perception.

5. I will evince, that no Action and Percussion of the Animal Spirit, one Particle against another, can create any Sense and Perception.

6. I will answer the Atheist's Argument of matter of Fact and Experience in Brute Beasts; which, say they, are allowed to be meer Matter, and yet have some degree of Sense and Perception.

And first I will give a true Notion and Idea of Matter; whereby it will appear that it has no inherent Faculty of Sense and Perception. And I will offer no other, but what all competent Judges, and even Atheists themselves do
allow

allow of; and which being part of the *Epicurean* and *Democritean* Philosophy is providentially one of the best Antidotes against their other impious Opinions: as the Oil of Scorpions is said to be against the poison of their Stings. When we frame in our minds any notion of Matter, we conceive nothing else but Extension and Bulk; which is impenetrable and divisible and passive; by which three properties is understood, that any particular quantity of Matter doth hinder all other from intruding into its place, till it self be removed out of it; that it may be divided and broken into numerous parts of different sizes and figures, which by various ranking and disposing may produce an immense diversity of Surfaces and Textures; that if it be once bereaved of Motion, it cannot of it self acquire it again, nor till it be thrust or struck by some other Body from without, or (say we, though not the Atheist) be intrinsically moved by an immaterial self-active Substance, that can penetrate and pervade it. Wherefore in the whole Nature and Idea of Matter, we have nothing but Magnitude, and Figure, and Situation, and a Capacity of being moved and divided. So that no parts of Matter consider'd by themselves, are either hot or cold, either white or black, either bitter or sweet,

sweet, or betwixt the extremes. All the various Mixtures and Conjugations of Atoms do beget nothing but new inward Texture, and alteration of Surface. No sensible Qualities, as Light, and Colour, and Heat, and Sound, can be subsistent in the Bodies themselves absolutely consider'd, without a relation to our Eyes, and Ears, and other Organs of Sense. These Qualities are only the effects of our Sensation, which arise from the different motions upon our Nerves from objects without, according to their various modification and position. For example, when pellucid colourless Glass, or Water, by being beaten into powder or froth, do acquire a very intense whiteness; what can we imagin to be produced in the Glass or Water, but a new disposition of parts? Nay an object under the self-same disposition and modification, when 'tis viewed by us under differing proportions, doth represent very differing colours, without any change at all in it self. For that same opaque, white Powder of Glass, when 'tis seen through a good Microscope, doth exhibit all its little fragments pellucid and colourless; as the whole appear'd to the naked eye, before it was pounded. So that Whiteness, and Redness, and Coldness, and the like, are only Idea's and Vital Passions in *us* that

see and feel : but can no more be conceived to be real and distinct Qualities in the Bodies themselves; than Roses or Honey can be thought to smell or taste their own Sweetness, or an Organ be conscious to its Musick, or Gun-powder to its Flashing and Noise.

Thus far then we have proved, and 'tis agreed on all hands, that in our conception of any quantity of Body, there is nothing but Figure and Site, and a Capacity of Motion, either of the Whole, or the insensible Parts. Which Motion, if it be actually impressed upon it, doth only cause a new Order and Contexture of parts: so that all the Idea's of sensible Qualities are not inherent in the inanimate Bodies; but are the effects of their Motion upon our Nerves, and sympathetical and vital Passions produced within our selves.

2. Our second enquiry must be; what it is in the constitution and composition of a Man, that hath the Faculty of forming such Idea's; what is that principle of Life and Self-activity and Reason within us, that performs those higher operations of Cogitation, and Appetite, and Will. Let us carry in our minds this true notion of Body in general, and apply it to our own Substance; and observe what prerogatives this
Rational

Rational Machin (as the Atheists would make us to be) can challenge above other parcels of Matter. We observe then in this understanding piece of Clock-work; that his Body, as well as other senseless Matter, has colour and warmth, and softness, and the like. But we have proved it before, and 'tis acknowledged; that these Qualities are not subsistent in those Bodies but are operations of Fancy begotten in something else. So that 'tis not Blood and Bones, that can be conscious of their own hardness and redness: and we are still to seek for something else in our Frame and Make, that must receive these impressions. Will they say that these Idea's are performed by the Brain? But the difficulty returns upon them again: for we perceive that the like qualities of softness, whiteness and warmth, do belong to the Brain it self; and seeing the Brain is but Body, those Qualities (as we have shewn) cannot be inherent *in it*, but are the Passions of some other Substance *without it*. Therefore the Brain is not that nature, which imagins those qualities of it self.

But they may say, 'tis not the Gross Substance of the Brain that causes Perception; but the Animal Spirit, and insensible Particles, that have their rendezvous there, and are devoid of those

C 2

qualities,

qualities, because they never fall under our Senses by reason of their minuteness. But we conceive, that every one of these also hath a determinate figure: they are Spheres, or Cubes, or Pyramids, or Cones, or of some shape or other that is irregular and nameless; and all these are but Modes and Affections of Magnitude; and the Idea's of such Modes can no more be subsistent in the Atoms so modified, than the Idea of Redness was just now found to be inherent in the Blood, or that of Whiteness in the Brain. And what relation or affinity is there between a minute Body and Cogitation, any more than the greatest? Is a small drop of Rain any wiser than the Ocean? or do we grind inanimate Corn into living and rational Meal? My very Nails, or my Hair, or the Horns and Hoofs of a Beast may bid as fair for Understanding and Sense, as the finest Animal Spirit of the Brain.

3. But Thirdly, they will say, 'tis not the Bulk and Substance of the Animal Spirit, but its Motion and Agility that produce Intellection and Sense. If then Motion in general or any degree of its velocity can beget Cogitation; surely a Ship under sail must be a most intelligent Creature; though while she lies at Anchor, those Faculties be asleep: some cold Water or Ice may
be

be phlegmatick and senseless; but when it boils in a Kettle, it has wonderfull Heats of Thinking and Ebullitions of Fancy. Nay the whole corporeal Mass, all the brute and stupid Matter of the Universe must upon these terms be allowed to have Life and Understanding: seeing that there is nothing that we know of, in a state of absolute Rest. Those things that seem to be so upon the surface of the Earth, are daily wheel'd about its Axis, and yearly about the Sun with a prodigious swiftness.

4. But Fourthly, they will say, 'tis not Motion in general, that can do these feats of Sensation and Perception; but a particular sort of it, that is made in an Organized Body through the determinate Roads and Channels of Muscles and Nerves. But, I pray, among all the kinds of Motion, whether direct, or circular, or parabolical, or in what curve they please; what pretence can one make to Thinking and Liberty of Will, more than another? Why do not these persons make a Diagram of these cogitative Lines and Angles; and demonstrate their Properties of Perception and Appetite, as plainly as we know the other properties of Triangles and Circles? But how little can any Motion, either circular or other, contribute to the production of Thought?

No.

No such Motion of the same Atom can be all of it existent at once; it must needs be made gradually and successively both as to place and time: seeing that *Body* cannot at the same instant be in more places than one. So that at any instant of time the moving Atom is but in one single point of the Line. Therefore all but that one point is either future or past; and no other parts are coexistent or contemporary with it. Now what is not present, is nothing at all, and can be the efficient of nothing. So that if Motion be the cause of Thought; then Thought must be produced by one single *Punctum* of Motion with relation to time as well as place. And such a *Punctum* to our Conceptions is almost equivalent to Permanency and Rest, or at least to any other *Punctum* of all Motion whatsoever. What then is become of the privilege of that organical Motion of the Animal Spirit above any other? Again, we have shewn, that this circular and other Motion is but the successive Flux of an Atom, and is never existent together; and indeed is a pure *Ens Rationis*, an operation of the Soul, which considering past motion and future, and recollecting the whole by the Memory and Fancy, calls this by one denomination and that by another. How then can that Motion be
the

the efficient of Thought, which is evidently the Effect and the Product of it?

5. But Fifthly, they will say farther, (which is their last refuge) that 'tis not Motion alone, or under this or that Determination, that produceth Cogitation; but when it falls out that numerous Particles of Matter, aptly disposed and directed, do interfere in their Motions, and strike and knock one another; this is it which begets our Sensation. All the active Power and Vigor of the Mind, our Faculties of Reason, Imagination and Will are the wonderfull result of this mutual Occurse, this Pulsion and Repercussion of Atoms. Just as we experience it in the Flint and the Steel; you may move them apart as long as you please, to very little purpose: but 'tis the Hitting and Collision of them that must make them strike Fire. You may remember I have proved before, that Light and Heat, and the rest of those Qualities, are not such Passions in the Bodies, as we perceive in our selves. So that this smiting of the Steel with the Flint doth only make a Comminution and a very rapid Whirling and Melting of some Particles: but that Idea of Flame is wholly in us. But what a strange and miraculous thing should we count it, if the Flint and the Steel, instead of a few Sparks should chance to knock

knock out Definitions and Syllogisms? And yet it's altogether as reasonable, as this sottish opinion of the Atheists; That dead senseless Atoms can never jostle and thump one another into Life and Understanding. All that can be effected by such encounters of Atoms, is either the imparting or receiving of Motion, or a new determination and direction of its Course. Matter, when it acts upon Matter, can communicate nothing but Motion; and that we have shew'd before to be utterly unable to produce those Operations of our Minds. And again, how can that Concussion of Atoms be capable of begetting those intrinsecal and vital Affections, that Self-consciousness and other Powers and Energies that we feel in in our Minds: seeing they only strike upon the outward Surfaces; they cannot inwardly pervade one another; they cannot have any penetration of Dimensions and Conjunction of Substance. But, it may be, that these Atoms of theirs may have it in them, but they are refractory and sullen; and therefore, like Men of the same Tempers, must be bang'd and buffeted into Reason. And indeed that way of Argumentation would be most proper and effectual upon these Atheistical Atomists themselves. 'Tis a vigorous Execution of good Laws, and not rational Discourses

ses only, either neglected or not understood, that must reclaim the profaneness of those perverse and unreasonable Men. For what can be said more to such persons, that are either so disingenuous or so stupid, as to profess to believe; That all the natural Powers and acquired Habits of the Mind, that penetrating Understanding and accurate Judgment, that strength of Memory and readiness of Wit, that Liberality and Justice and Prudence and Magnanimity, that Charity and Beneficence to Mankind, that ingenuous Fear and awfull Love of God, that comprehensive Knowledge of the Histories and Languages of so many Nations, that experienced Insight into the works and wonders of Nature, that rich Vein of Poetry and Inexhausted Fountain of Eloquence, those lofty Flights of Thought and almost intuitive Perception of abstruse Notions, those exalted Discoveries of Mathematical Theorems and Divine Contemplations; all these admirable Endowments and Capacities of Human Nature, which we sometimes see actually existent in one and the same Person, can proceed from the blind shuffling and casual clashing of Atoms. I could as easily take up with that senseless assertion of the *Stoics*, That Vertues and Vices and Sciences and Arts and Fancies and Pas-

Seneca Ep. 113.
Plutarch. de
Contrad. Stoic.

sions and Appetites are all of them real Bodies and distinct Animals; as with this of the Atheist, That they can all be derived from the Power of meer Bodies. 'Tis utterly incredible and impossible; and we cannot without indignation go about to refute such an absurd imagination, such a gross contradiction to unprejudiced Reason. And yet if the Atheists had not been driven from all their posts and their subterfuges; if we had not pursued their Atoms through all their turnings and windings, their cells and recesses, their interferings and justlings; they would have boasted, that they could not be answer'd; with an arrogant scorn and a mighty flutter and triumph.

Nay though they are so miserably confounded and baffled, and can offer no further Explanation of the Cause and the Manner; yet they will, Sixthly, urge matter of Fact and Experience, that meer Body may produce Cogitation and Sense. For, say they, do but observe the Actions of some Brutes, how neerly they approach to human Reason, and visibly discover some glimpses of Understanding: and if that be performed by the pure Mechanism of their Bodies (as many do allow, who yet believe the Being of God, and an immaterial Spirit in Man) then 'tis but raising our Conceptions and supposing Man-

Mankind to be Engines of a finer Make and Contexture, and the business is done. I must confess, that the *Cartesians* and some others, men that have given no occasion to be suspected of Irreligion, have asserted that Brutes are meer *Machins* and *Automata*. I cannot now engage in the Controversie, neither is there any necessity to do so; for Religion is not endanger'd by either opinion. If brutes have immaterial Souls, they'll say, then they must be either annihilated, or immortal. This objection supposeth the being of God: and God can as easily annihilate as create. Or, if they be immortal, what need we be concerned about it? 'tis only by the good pleasure of their Maker, who doth all things for the best. And if they be bare Engines and Machins I admire and adore the divine Artifice and Skill in such a wonderfull contrivance. But I shall deny then, that they have any Reason or Sense; if they be nothing but Matter. Omnipotence it self cannot create cogitative Body. And 'tis not any imperfection in the Power of God, but an incapacity in the Subject: the Idea's of Matter and Thought are absolutely incompatible. And this the *Cartesians* themselves do allow. Do but convince *them*, that Brutes have the least participation of Thought, or Will, or Appetite, or Sensation or

Fancy; and they'll readily retract their Opinion. For none, but besotted Atheists, do joyn the two Notions together, and believe Brutes to be Rational or Sensitive Machins. They are either the one or the other; either endued with Sense and some glimmering Rays of Reason from a higher Principle than Matter; or (as the *Cartesians* say) they are purely Body, devoid of all Sensation and Life: and, like the Idols of the Gentiles, *they have eyes, and see not; ears, and hear not; noses, and smell not*: they eat without hunger, and drink without thirst, and howl without pain. They perform the outward material actions; but they have no inward Self-consciousness, nor any more Perception of what they do or suffer; than a Looking-Glass has of the Objects it reflects, or the Index of a Watch of the Hour it points to. And as one of those Watches, when it was first presented to the Emperor of *China*, was taken there for an animal: so on the contrary, our *Cartesians* take Brute Animals for a sort of Watches. For, considering the infinite distance betwixt the poor mortal Artift, and the almighty Opificer; the few Wheels and Motions of a Watch, and the innumerable Springs and Organs in the Bodies of Brutes; they may affirm (as they think, without either absurdity or impiety)

ery that they are nothing but moving *Automata*, as the fabulous *Statues of Dædalus*, bereaved of all true Life and vital Sensation; which never act spontaneously and freely, but as Watches must be wound up to set them a-going; so their Motions also are excited and inhibited, are moderated and managed by the Objects without them.

* *Vide Zenobium & Suidam in Δαίδαλος μηχανήματα, & Scholiastem Eurip. Hecubæ V. 838.*

(2.) And now that I have gone through the six parts that I proposed, and sufficiently shewn that Sense and Perception can never be the product of any kind of Matter and Motion; it remains therefore, that it must necessarily proceed from some Incorporeal Substance within us. And though we cannot conceive the manner of the Soul's Action and Passion; nor what Hold it can lay on the Body, when it voluntarily moves it; yet we are as certain, that it doth so, as of any Mathematical Truth whatsoever; or at least of such as are proved from the Impossibility or Absurdity of the contrary, which notwithstanding are allowed for infallible Demonstrations. Why one motion of the Body begets an Idea of Pleasure in the Mind, and another of Pain, and others of the other Senses; why such a disposition of the Body induceth Sleep, another disturbs

disturbs all the operations of the Soul, and occasions a Lethargy or Frenzy; this Knowledge exceeds our narrow Faculties, and is out of the reach of our discovery. I discern some excellent Final Causes of such a vital Conjunction of Body and Soul; but the Instrumental I know not, nor what invisible Bands and Fetters unite them together. I resolve all that into the sole Pleasure and *Fiat* of our Omnipotent Creator: whose Existence (which is my last Point) is so plainly and nearly deducible from the Established proof of an Immaterial Soul; that no wonder the resolved Atheists do so labour and bestir themselves to fetch Sense and Perception out of the Power of Matter. I will dispatch it in three words. For seeing we have shewn, that there is an Incorporeal Substance within us: whence did that proceed, and how came it into Being? It did not exist from all Eternity, that's too absurd to be supposed; nor could it come out of Nothing into Being without an Efficient Cause. Something therefore must have created our Souls out of Nothing; and that Something, (seeing Nothing can give more than it has) must *it self* have all the Perfections, that it hath given to *them*. There is therefore an Immaterial and Intelligent Being, that created our Souls: which
Being

Being was either Eternal it self, or Created immediately or ultimately by some other Eternal, that hath all those Perfections. There is therefore Originally *an Eternal, Immaterial, Intelligent Creator*; all which together are the *Attribute of God alone.*

And now that I have finished all the Parts, which I proposed to discourse of; I will conclude all with a short application to the Atheists. And I would advise them, as a friend, to leave off this dabbling and smattering in Philosophy, this shuffling and cutting with Atoms. It never succeeded well with them, and they always come off with the loss. Their old Master *Epicurus* seems to have had his Brains so muddled and confounded with them, that he scarce ever kept in the right way; though the main Maxim of his Philosophy was.

To trust to his Senses, and follow his Nose. I will not take notice of his doting conceit, that the Sun and Moon are no bigger, than they appear to the Eye, a foot or half a yard over; and that the Stars are no larger, than so many Glow-worms. But let us see how he manages his Atoms, those Almighty Tools that do every thing of themselves without the help of a

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*Epicurus apud
Laert. Lucret.
l. 5. Cicero de
Fin. l. 1. Acad.
l. 2.*

Lucret. l. 2.
Cic. de Fato &
l. 1. de Nat.
Deorum. Plu-
tarch. &c.

Workman. When the Atoms (says he) descend in infinite space (very ingenuously spoken, to make High and Low in Infinity) they do not fall plumb down, but decline a little from the Perpendicular, either Obliquely or in a Curve : and this Declination (says he) from the direct Line is the cause of our Liberty of Will. But, I say, this Declination of Atoms in their Descent, was it self either necessary or voluntary. If it was necessary, how then could that Necessity ever beget Liberty? if it was voluntary, then Atoms had that power of Volition before : and what becomes then of the *Epicurean* Doctrine of the fortuitous Production of Worlds? The whole business is Contradiction and ridiculous Nonsense. 'Tis as if one should say, that a Bowl equally poised, and thrown upon a plain and Smooth Bowling-Green, will run necessarily and fatally in a direct Motion : but if it be made with a Byas, that may decline it a little from a straight Line, it may acquire by that Motion a Liberty of Will, and so run spontaneously to the Jack. It would behoove the Atheists to give over such trifling as this, and resume the old solid way of confuting Religion. They should deny the Being of the Soul, because they cannot see it. This would be an Invincible Argument

ment against us: for we can never exhibit it to their Touch nor expose it to their View; nor shew them the Colour and Complexion of a Soul. They should dispute, as a bold Brother of theirs did; That he was sure there was no God, Because (says he) if there was one, he would have struck me to Hell with Thunder and Lightning, that have so reviled and blasphemed him. This would be an Objection indeed. Alas, all that we could answer is in the next words to the Text, *That God hath appointed a day in which he will judge all the world in Righteousness*; and that the *Goodness and Forbearance and Long-suffering of God*, which are some of his Attributes, and Essential Perfections of his Being, ought not to be abused and perverted into arguments against his Being. But if this will not do, we must yeild our selves overcome: for we neither can, nor desire to *command fire to come down from Heaven and consume them*; and give them such experimental Conviction of the Existence of God. So that they ought to take these Methods, if they would successfully attack Religion. But if they will still be meddling with Atoms, be hammering and squeezing Understanding out of them; I would advise them to make use of their own

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Understanding for the instance. Nothing, in my opinion, could run us down, more effectually than that. For we readily allow, that if any Understanding can possibly be produced by such clashing of senseless Atoms; 'tis that of an Atheist, that hath the fairest Pretensions and the best Title to it. We know, who it is, *that hath said in his Heart, there is no God.* And 'tis no less a Truth than a Paradox, That there are no greater *Fools*, than Atheistical *Wits*; and none so *credulous* as *Infidels*. No Article of Religion, though as demonstrable as the Nature of the thing can admit, hath credibility enough for them. And yet these same cautious and quick-sighted Gentlemen can wink and swallow down this sottish Opinion about Percipient Atoms; which exceeds in Incredibility all the Fictions of *Æsop's Fables*. For is it not every whit as likely or more, That Cocks and Bulls might discourse, and Hinds and Panthers hold Conferences about Religion, as that Atoms can do so? Can invent Arts and Sciences, can institute Society and Government, can make Leagues and Confederacies, can devise Methods of Peace and Stratagems of War? And moreover, the Modesty of Mythology deserves to be commended. The Scenes there are laid at a distance;

tance; 'Tis once upon a time, in the Days of Yore, and in the Land of *Utopia*, there was a Dialogue between an Oak and a Cedar: whereas the Atheist is so impudently silly, as to bring the Farce of his Atoms upon the Theatre of the present Age; to make dull senseless Matter transact all publick and private Affairs, by Sea and by Land, in Houses of Parliament, and Closets of Princes. Can any Credulity be comparable to this? If a man should affirm, that an Ape casually meeting with Pen, Ink, and Paper, and falling to scribble, did happen to write exactly the *Leviathan* of *Thomas Hobbes*: Would an Atheist believe such a story? and yet he can easily digest as incredible as that; That the innumerable Members of a Human Body, which in the Style of the Scripture *are all written in the* Psal. 139. 16. *Book of God*, and may admit of almost infinite Variations and Transpositions above the four and twenty Letters of the Alphabet, were at first fortuitously scribbled, and by meer accident compacted into this beautifull, and noble and most wonderfully usefull Frame, which we now see it carry. But this will be the Argument of my next Discourse; which is the second Proposition drawn from the Text, That the Admirable Structure of Human Bodies, whereby

whereby they are fitted to live and move, and be vitally informed by the Soul, is unquestionably the Workmanship of a most wise and powerfull and beneficent Maker: *To which Almighty Creator, together with the Son and the Holy Ghost, be all Honour and Glory and Majesty and Power both now and from henceforth evermore. Amen.*

F I N I S

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